

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7183

To direct the Secretary of State to work with the Government of Brazil and the governments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere to develop partnerships to strengthen diplomatic relations and energy security by accelerating the development of biofuels production, research, and infrastructure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to work with the Government of Brazil and the governments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere to develop partnerships to strengthen diplomatic relations and energy security by accelerating the development of biofuels production, research, and infrastructure, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Western Hemisphere Energy Compact Act of 2008”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Western Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum.
- Sec. 5. United States-Brazil biofuels partnership.
- Sec. 6. Biofuels feasibility studies.
- Sec. 7. Multilateral development banks.
- Sec. 8. Carbon credit trading mechanisms.
- Sec. 9. Energy crisis response mechanism.
- Sec. 10. Energy foreign assistance.
- Sec. 11. Energy public diplomacy.
- Sec. 12. Report.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The engagement of the United States Gov-
9 ernment on energy issues with the Government of
10 Brazil and the governments of willing countries in
11 the Western Hemisphere is a strategic priority be-
12 cause such engagement can help to—

13 (A) reduce the potential for conflict over
14 energy resources;

15 (B) maintain and expand reliable energy
16 supplies;

17 (C) expand the use of renewable energy;
18 and

19 (D) reduce the detrimental effects of en-
20 ergy import dependence.

1 (2) Current energy dialogues and agreements
2 should be expanded and refocused, as needed, to
3 meet the challenges described in paragraph (1).

4 (3) Countries in the Western Hemisphere can
5 most effectively meet their common needs for energy
6 security and sustainability through partnership and
7 cooperation. Cooperation between governments on
8 energy issues will enhance bilateral and regional re-
9 lationships among countries in the Western Hemi-
10 sphere. The Western Hemisphere is rich in natural
11 resources, and there are significant opportunities for
12 the production of renewable energy, including hydro,
13 geothermal, solar, and wind. Countries in the West-
14 ern Hemisphere can provide convenient and reliable
15 markets for their own energy needs and for foreign
16 trade in energy goods and services.

17 (4) Development of sustainable energy alter-
18 natives in countries in the Western Hemisphere can
19 improve energy security, balance of trade, and envi-
20 ronmental quality, and can provide markets for en-
21 ergy technology and agricultural products.

22 (5) The Government of the United States has
23 actively worked with the Government of Brazil to de-
24 velop a strong biofuels partnership and to increase
25 the production and use of biofuels. On March 9,

2007, the Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States and Brazil to Advance Cooperation on Biofuels, was signed in São Paulo, Brazil.

(6) Brazil and the United States have led the world in the production of ethanol. Deeper cooperation on biofuels with other countries in the Western Hemisphere would extend economic, security, and political benefits.

(7) The United States is committed to developing a biofuels partnership in the Western Hemisphere that benefits the welfare of the people of the Western Hemisphere. According to the Latin American Energy Organization, the percentage of total energy consumption in each of the following countries in the Western Hemisphere that originated from imported crude oil and oil products in 2005 was—

(A) 2 percent in Argentina;

(B) 93 percent in Barbados;

(C) 7 percent in Bolivia;

(D) 13 percent in Brazil;

(E) 55 percent in Chile;

(F) 4 percent in Colombia;

(G) 56 percent in Costa Rica;

(H) 77 percent in the Dominican Republic;

- 1 (I) 20 percent in Ecuador;
- 2 (J) 76 percent in El Salvador;
- 3 (K) 85 percent in Grenada;
- 4 (L) 72 percent in Guatemala;
- 5 (M) 100 percent in Guyana;
- 6 (N) 93 percent in Haiti;
- 7 (O) 81 percent in Honduras;
- 8 (P) 91 percent in Jamaica;
- 9 (Q) 10 percent in Mexico;
- 10 (R) 98 percent in Nicaragua;
- 11 (S) 100 percent in Panama;
- 12 (T) 46 percent in Paraguay;
- 13 (U) 39 percent in Peru;
- 14 (V) 34 percent in Suriname;
- 15 (W) 45 percent in Trinidad and Tobago;
- 16 (X) 79 percent in Uruguay; and
- 17 (Y) 0 percent in Venezuela.

18 (8) Private sector partnership and investment
19 in all sources of energy is critical to providing en-
20 ergy security in the Western Hemisphere. Several
21 countries in the Western Hemisphere have endan-
22 gered the investment climate. Other countries in the
23 Western Hemisphere have been unable to make re-
24 forms necessary to create investment climates nec-
25 essary to increase the domestic production of energy.

(9) It is the policy of the United States to promote free trade in energy among countries in the Western Hemisphere, which would—

(A) help support a growing energy industry;

(B) create jobs that benefit development and alleviate poverty;

(C) increase energy security through supply diversification;

(D) strengthen relations among countries in the Western Hemisphere through closer cooperation and understanding; and

(E) promote the production and use of clean forms of energy.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) **BIOFUEL.**—The term “biofuel” means any liquid fuel that is derived from biomass.

(3) **BIOMASS.**—The term “biomass” means any organic matter that is available on a renewable or

recurring basis, including agricultural crops, trees, wood, wood wastes and residues, plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues, fibers, animal wastes, municipal wastes, and other waste materials.

(4) PARTNER COUNTRY.—The term “partner country” means a country that, along with the United States and Brazil, joins the Western Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum established pursuant to section 4 and has agreed to conduct a biofuels feasibility study under section 6.

(5) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—The term “regional development banks” means the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Asian Development Bank.

SEC. 4. WESTERN HEMISPHERE ENERGY COOPERATION FORUM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall seek to establish a regional-based ministerial forum to be known as the Western Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum (referred to in this section as the “Energy Forum”). The United States Government shall

1 initially provide the framework for the Energy
2 Forum and shall seek to establish a rotating chair-
3 manship, in consultation with the Government of
4 Brazil.

5 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of State, in
6 coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall seek
7 to include in the Energy Forum membership of
8 other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

9 (b) PURPOSES.—The Energy Forum should seek—
10 (1) to strengthen relationships between the
11 United States and other countries in the Western
12 Hemisphere through cooperation on energy issues;

13 (2) to enhance cooperation, including informa-
14 tion and technology sharing, between major energy
15 producers and major energy consumers in the West-
16 ern Hemisphere, particularly among the Govern-
17 ments of Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the United
18 States;

19 (3) to explore possibilities to work with coun-
20 tries in the Western Hemisphere to promote renew-
21 able energy production (particularly in biofuels) and
22 to lessen dependence on oil imports without reducing
23 food availability (particularly in Mexico and Central
24 American countries);

1 (4) to ensure that energy contributes to the eco-
2 nomic, social, and environmental enhancement of the
3 countries in the Western Hemisphere;

4 (5) to provide an opportunity for open dialogue
5 and joint commitments among Energy Forum coun-
6 tries and with private industry; and

7 (6) to provide participating countries the flexi-
8 bility necessary to cooperatively address broad chal-
9 lenges posed to the energy supply of the Western
10 Hemisphere to find solutions that are politically ac-
11 ceptable and practical in policy terms.

12 (c) ACTIVITIES.—The United States Government
13 shall seek to implement, in cooperation with Energy
14 Forum countries—

15 (1) an energy crisis initiative that will promote
16 national and regional measures to respond to tem-
17 porary energy supply disruptions, including partici-
18 pating in a Western Hemisphere energy crisis re-
19 sponse mechanism in accordance with section 9(b);

20 (2) an energy sustainability initiative to facili-
21 tate long-term supply security by fostering reliable
22 supply sources of energy and improved energy effi-
23 ciency, including—

1 (A) developing, deploying, and commer-
2 cializing technologies for sustainable renewable
3 fuels within the region;

4 (B) promoting production and trade in
5 sustainable energy, including energy from bio-
6 mass and other alternatives;

7 (C) facilitating investment, trade, and
8 technology cooperation in energy infrastructure,
9 petroleum products, natural gas (including liq-
10 uefied natural gas), energy efficiency (including
11 automotive efficiency), clean fossil energy, re-
12 newable energy, and carbon sequestration;

13 (D) promoting regional infrastructure and
14 market integration;

15 (E) developing effective and stable regu-
16 latory frameworks;

17 (F) developing policy instruments to en-
18 courage the use of renewable energy and im-
19 proved energy efficiency;

20 (G) establishing educational training and
21 exchange programs between Energy Forum
22 countries; and

23 (H) identifying and removing barriers to
24 trade in technology, services, and commodities;

1 (3) an energy for development initiative to pro-
2 mote energy access for underdeveloped areas
3 through energy policy and infrastructure develop-
4 ment, including—

5 (A) increasing access to energy services for
6 the poor;

7 (B) improving energy sector market condi-
8 tions;

9 (C) promoting rural development through
10 biomass energy production and use;

11 (D) increasing transparency of, and par-
12 ticipation in, energy infrastructure projects;

13 (E) promoting development and deploy-
14 ment of technology for clean and sustainable
15 energy development; and

16 (F) facilitating the use of carbon seques-
17 tration methods in agriculture and forestry and
18 linking greenhouse gas emissions reduction pro-
19 grams to international carbon markets; and

20 (4) biofuels studies, with country studies pro-
21 vided by each partner country, in accordance with
22 section 6.

23 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—It is the sense of Congress
24 that the Energy Forum should—

25 (1) meet at least once every 2 years; and

1 (2) meet on a subregional basis, as needed.

2 (e) WESTERN HEMISPHERE ENERGY INDUSTRY
3 GROUP.—

4 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in
5 coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and
6 the Secretary of Energy, shall approach the govern-
7 ments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere
8 to seek cooperation in establishing a Western Hemi-
9 sphere Energy Industry Group (referred to in this
10 subsection as the “Energy Group”) within the West-
11 ern Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum. The
12 Energy Group should include representatives from
13 industries and governments in the Western Hemi-
14 sphere.

15 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Energy
16 Group should be to—

17 (A) increase public-private partnerships;

18 (B) foster private investment; and

19 (C) enable countries in the Western Hemi-
20 sphere to devise energy agendas compatible
21 with industry capacity and cognizant of indus-
22 try goals.

23 (3) DISCUSSION TOPICS.—It is the sense of
24 Congress that the Energy Group should discuss—

25 (A) promoting a secure investment climate;

1 (B) developing and deploying biofuels and
2 other alternative energy and clean electrical
3 production facilities;

4 (C) developing and deploying energy effi-
5 cient technologies and practices in the indus-
6 trial, residential, and transportation sectors;

7 (D) oil and natural gas production and dis-
8 tribution;

9 (E) maintaining transparency of energy
10 production, trade, consumption, and reserves
11 data;

12 (F) promoting biofuels and alternative en-
13 ergy research; and

14 (G) training and education exchange pro-
15 grams.

16 (f) OIL AND NATURAL GAS WORKING GROUP.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The United States Gov-
18 ernment shall seek cooperation in establishing an Oil
19 and Natural Gas Working Group (referred to in this
20 subsection as the “Working Group”) within the
21 Western Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum or
22 the Western Hemisphere Energy Industry Group.

23 (2) PURPOSES.—The Working Group should
24 strengthen dialogue between international oil compa-
25 nies, national oil companies, and civil society groups

1 on issues related to international standards on
2 transparency, social responsibility, and best practices
3 in leasing and management of oil and natural gas
4 projects.

5 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for fiscal
7 year 2009 to carry out this section.

8 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES-BRAZIL BIOFUELS PARTNERSHIP.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
10 nation with the Secretary of Energy, shall work with the
11 Government of Brazil to—

12 (1) coordinate efforts to promote the production
13 and use of biofuels among countries, giving pref-
14 erence to those countries that are among the poorest
15 (as determined by the Inter-American Development
16 Bank) and most dependent on petroleum imports,
17 including—

18 (A) coordinating the biofuels feasibility
19 studies described in section 6;

20 (B) collaborating on policy and regulatory
21 measures to—

22 (i) promote domestic biofuels produc-
23 tion and use, including related agricultural
24 and environmental measures;

1 (ii) reform automotive sectors to in-
2 corporate biofuels use, including increased
3 efficiency, reduced emissions, and integra-
4 tion with high-efficiency advanced tech-
5 nologies; and

6 (iii) reform fueling infrastructure to
7 allow for use of biofuels and other alter-
8 native energy sources;

9 (2) invite the European Union, China, India,
10 South Africa, Japan, and other interested countries
11 to join in and expand upon existing international ef-
12 forts to promote the development of a global strat-
13 egy to create global biofuels markets and promote
14 biofuels production and use in developing countries;

15 (3) assess the feasibility of working with the
16 World Bank and relevant regional development
17 banks regarding—

18 (A) biofuels production capabilities; and

19 (B) infrastructure, research, and training
20 related to such capabilities; and

21 (4) develop a joint and coordinated strategy re-
22 garding the construction and retrofitting of pipelines
23 and terminals near major fuel distribution centers,
24 coastal harbors, and railroads.

1 (b) INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
2 PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall work with
3 the Government of Brazil to facilitate joint agricultural
4 extension activities related to biofuels crop production,
5 biofuels production, and environmental and greenhouse
6 gas emissions reduction practices.

7 (c) EDUCATIONAL GRANTS.—The Secretary of En-
8 ergy, in coordination with the Secretary of State, and in
9 collaboration with the Government of Brazil, shall estab-
10 lish a grant program to finance advanced biofuels research
11 and collaboration between academic and research institu-
12 tions in the United States and Brazil.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2009—

- 15 (1) \$3,000,000 to carry out subsection (a);
16 (2) \$5,000,000 to carry out subsection (b); and
17 (3) \$7,000,000 to carry out subsection (c).

18 **SEC. 6. BIOFUELS FEASIBILITY STUDIES.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in con-
20 sultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall work with
21 each partner country to conduct a study to determine the
22 feasibility of increasing the production and use of biofuels
23 in such country.

1 (b) ANALYSIS OF THE ENERGY POLICY FRAME-
2 WORK.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall
3 analyze—

4 (1) the energy policy of the partner country,
5 particularly the impact of such policy on the pro-
6 motion of biofuels; and

7 (2) the status and impacts of any existing
8 biofuel programs of the country.

9 (c) ASSESSMENT OF DEMAND.—The study conducted
10 under subsection (a) shall assess, with respect to the part-
11 ner country—

12 (1) the quantitative and qualitative current and
13 projected demand for energy by families, villages, in-
14 dustries, public transportation infrastructure, and
15 other energy consumers;

16 (2) the future consumption by the heat, elec-
17 tricity, and transportation sectors;

18 (3) the demand for high-quality transportation
19 fuel;

20 (4) the local market prices for various energy
21 sources; and

22 (5) the employment, income generation, and
23 rural development opportunities from biofuel indus-
24 try.

1 (d) ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES.—The study con-
2 ducted under subsection (a) shall—

3 (1) assess the present and future biomass re-
4 sources that are available in each geographic region
5 of the participating country to meet the demand as-
6 sessed under subsection (c);

7 (2) include a plan for increasing the availability
8 of existing biomass resources in the country; and

9 (3) include a plan for developing new, sustain-
10 able biomass resources in the country, including
11 wood, manure, agricultural residues, sewage, and or-
12 ganic waste.

13 (e) ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND
14 SYSTEMS.—Building upon the results of the assessments
15 described in subsections (c) and (d), the study shall—

16 (1) analyze available technologies and systems
17 for utilizing biofuels in the country, including—

18 (A) technologies for the conversion of bio-
19 mass crops and agroforestry residues in pellets
20 and briquettes;

21 (B) low-pollution stoves;

22 (C) biogas production;

23 (D) charcoal and activated coal production;

24 (E) biofuel production;

1 (F) combustion and co-combustion tech-
2 nologies;

3 (G) the availability of biofuels technologies
4 in various geographic regions; and

5 (H) the economic viability of biomass tech-
6 nologies; and

7 (2) compare such technologies and systems to
8 conventional energy supplies with respect to cost-ef-
9 fectiveness, maintenance, social acceptability, and
10 the impact on development.

11 (f) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—The study con-
12 ducted under subsection (a) shall assess—

13 (1) the likely impacts of increased biomass har-
14 vesting and production, and biofuels production and
15 use on environmental sustainability, including effects
16 on carbon emissions; and

17 (2) the availability of financing from global car-
18 bon credit trading mechanisms.

19 (g) FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT.—The study pre-
20 pared by each partner country under subsection (a) shall
21 assess the likely impacts on food stocks and prices in part-
22 ner countries.

23 (h) DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY OPTIONS TO PRO-
24 MOTE BIOFUEL PRODUCTION AND USE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The study prepared by each
2 partner country under subsection (a) shall identify
3 and evaluate policy options to promote biofuel pro-
4 duction and use, after taking into account—

5 (A) the existing energy policy of the coun-
6 try; and

7 (B) the technologies available to convert
8 local biomass resources into biofuels.

9 (2) COORDINATION.—In conducting the evalua-
10 tion under paragraph (1), the partner country shall
11 involve local, national, and international public and
12 private institutions with responsibility or expertise in
13 biofuel production and use.

14 (3) PRINCIPAL ISSUES.—The study shall ad-
15 dress—

16 (A) potential biomass in the country and
17 barriers for the production of biofuels from
18 such biomass products;

19 (B) strategies for creating a market for
20 biomass products in the country;

21 (C) the potential contribution of biofuels to
22 reducing fossil fuel consumption in the country;

23 (D) environmental sustainability issues and
24 the mitigating effect on carbon emissions of in-
25 creased biofuel production;

1 (E) the potential contribution of biofuels to
2 economic development, poverty reduction, and
3 sustainability of energy resources;

4 (F) programs for the use of biofuels in the
5 transportation sector;

6 (G) economic cooperation across inter-
7 national borders to increase biofuel production
8 and use;

9 (H) technology collaboration and joint ven-
10 tures and technological, cultural, and legal bar-
11 riers that may impede such technological co-
12 operation; and

13 (I) the economic aspects of the promotion
14 of biofuels, including job creation, financing and
15 loan mechanisms, credit mobilization, invest-
16 ment capital, and market penetration.

17 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
19 appropriated \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 to
20 carry out this section.

21 (2) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING SOURCES.—The
22 Secretary of State shall work with the Government
23 of Brazil, the governments of partner countries, re-
24 gional development banks, the Organization of
25 American States, and other interested parties to

1 identify supplemental funding sources for the studies
2 described in this section.

3 **SEC. 7. MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the
5 Treasury should instruct the United States Executive Di-
6 rector at each international financial institution to which
7 the United States is a member to use the voice, vote, and
8 influence of the United States to ensure that assistance
9 provided by the institution encourages development of re-
10 newable energy sources, including energy derived from bio-
11 mass.

12 **SEC. 8. CARBON CREDIT TRADING MECHANISMS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall work
14 with interested governments in the Western Hemisphere
15 and other countries to organize regional and hemispheric
16 carbon trading mechanisms under the United Nations
17 Framework Convention on Climate Change and existing
18 trade and financial agreements to—

19 (1) establish special carbon credits for the pres-
20 ervation of tropical rain forests;

21 (2) use greenhouse gas-reducing farming prac-
22 tices;

23 (3) jointly fund greenhouse gas sequestration
24 studies and experiments in various geological forma-
25 tions; and

1 (4) jointly fund climate mitigation studies in
2 vulnerable areas in the Western Hemisphere.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for fiscal
5 year 2009 to carry out this section.

6 **SEC. 9. ENERGY CRISIS RESPONSE MECHANISM.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) Cooperation between the United States Gov-
10 ernment and governments of other countries during
11 energy crises promotes the national security of the
12 United States and of the cooperating countries.

13 (2) Credible contingency plans to respond to en-
14 ergy shortages may serve as deterrents to the ma-
15 nipulation of energy supplies by export and transit
16 countries.

17 (3) The vulnerability of most countries in the
18 Western Hemisphere to supply disruptions from po-
19 litical, natural, or terrorism causes may introduce
20 instability in the Western Hemisphere and can be a
21 source of conflict, despite the existence of major en-
22 ergy resources in the Western Hemisphere. The
23 United States and Canada are the only members of
24 the International Energy Program in the Western
25 Hemisphere.

1 (4) Integrating countries in the Western Hemi-
2 sphere into regional and international agreements
3 for the management of energy emergencies will ben-
4 efit market stability and encourage development in
5 participating countries.

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY CRISIS RE-
7 SPONSE MECHANISM FOR THE WESTERN HEMI-
8 SPHERE.—

9 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, in
10 coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall im-
11 mediately seek to establish a Western Hemisphere
12 energy crisis response mechanism.

13 (2) SCOPE.—The mechanism established under
14 paragraph (1) should include, as appropriate—

15 (A) a real-time information sharing and
16 coordinating mechanism to respond to energy
17 supply emergencies;

18 (B) technical assistance in the development
19 and management of national and regional stra-
20 tegic reserves within the Western Hemisphere;

21 (C) the promotion of increased energy in-
22 frastructure integration between countries;

23 (D) emergency demand restraint measures;

24 (E) energy switching preparedness and al-
25 ternative energy production capacity;

1 (F) enhanced demand intensity reduction
2 programs; and

3 (G) measures to strengthen sea lane and
4 infrastructure security.

5 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall seek to
6 include in the Western Hemisphere energy crisis re-
7 sponse mechanism membership of each major energy
8 producer and major energy consumer in the Western
9 Hemisphere and other members of the Western
10 Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum established
11 pursuant to section 4(a).

12 (4) STUDY.—The Secretary of Energy shall—

13 (A) conduct a study of supply
14 vulnerabilities for natural gas in the Western
15 Hemisphere; and

16 (B) submit a report to the appropriate
17 congressional committees that includes rec-
18 ommendations for infrastructure and regulatory
19 needs for reducing supply disruption vulner-
20 ability and international coordination.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for fiscal year
23 2009 to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 10. ENERGY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
3 States Agency for International Development (referred to
4 in this section as the “Administrator”) shall seek to in-
5 crease United States foreign assistance programming in
6 renewable energy, including in activities to reduce energy
7 import dependence through the use of biofuels.

8 (b) DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW.—The Ad-
9 ministrator shall—

10 (1) review country assistance strategies to in-
11 crease assistance for renewable energy activities; and

12 (2) submit the results of this review to the ap-
13 propriate congressional committees not later than
14 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (c) EXPEDITED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GRANTS.—

16 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator is
17 authorized to award grants to nongovernmental or-
18 ganizations for sustainable energy and job creation
19 projects in at-risk nations, such as Haiti. Grant
20 funds shall be provided to grantees on an expedited
21 basis upon approval of the eligible project.

22 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
23 There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000
24 for fiscal year 2009 to carry out this subsection.

1 **SEC. 11. ENERGY PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
3 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Depart-
4 ment of State for public diplomacy activities on renewable
5 energy in the Western Hemisphere.

6 (b) LIMITATION.—Not less than 50 percent of any
7 amount appropriated pursuant to the authorizations of ap-
8 propriations under paragraph (1) shall be used for edu-
9 cation activities implemented through civil society organi-
10 zations.

11 **SEC. 12. REPORT.**

12 The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Sec-
13 retary of Energy, shall submit an annual report to the
14 appropriate congressional committees on the activities car-
15 ried out to implement this Act.

○